

R E M A R K S

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended to recite that the fibre-reinforced polymer compound is a polyarylamide-based compound (see claim 3 and specification at page 2, lines 16-20), claim 3 has been suitably amended, and claim 4 has been canceled. It is believed that these amendments should result in allowance of the application.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoneta et al. With respect to claim 3, the examiner states that Yoneta et al. disclose the device "wherein the reinforced polymer is a polymylamide-based (sic) compound..."

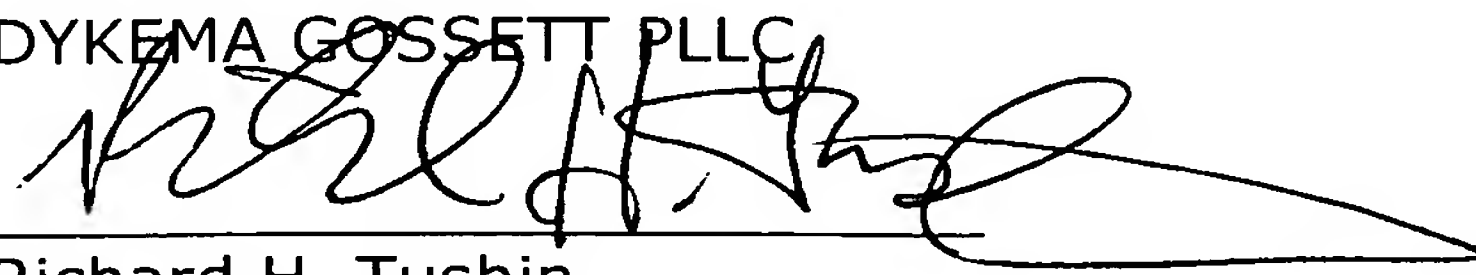
However, this is incorrect. Yoneta et al. disclose molded articles made of an aromatic polyester compound which can contain organic fillers such as fibers made of aromatic polyester, aromatic polyamide or polyimide. However, Yoneta et al. do not disclose articles made of polyarylamide-based compounds! The use of such compounds enables production of articles (hearing aid casings) with high quality surface layers with low fiber content.

The examiner's prior art rejection should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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